

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in dependent claims 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 22, 26, and 27. In this Amendment, Applicants have rewritten dependent claims 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 26, and 27 in independent form to include the features of the claims from which they previously depended. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 22, 26, and 27 are now allowable.

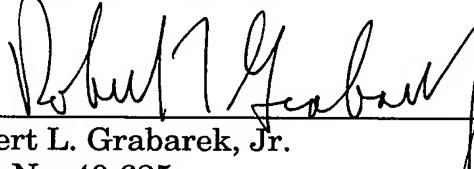
Further in this Amendment, Applicants have amended the subject matter of claim 10, as required by the Examiner, when including this subject matter in the rewritten independent claims. Claim 11 has been canceled. Regarding claim 19, Applicants have amended the claim language for the subject matter of previously pending claim 19 when rewriting claim 21 in independent form. Applicants respectfully submit that this claim language is now clear to claim that a longitudinal groove (36, 38) is provided at a surface area of a section (4a, 6a) of the step pistons and connects a respective pressure chamber (40, 42) with a respective one of the at least two pressure chambers (26, 28). Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to para. 0019 of Applicants' specification and Figure 1. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's objections to the claims, and rejections based on indefiniteness, have now been overcome.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If required, this paper should be considered to include a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket No. 028987.56522US).

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 4, 2008

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